

The United States of America



The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Has received an application for a patent for a new and useful invention. The title and description of the invention are enclosed. The requirements of law have been complied with, and it has been determined that a patent on the invention shall be granted under the law.

Therefore, this

United States Patent

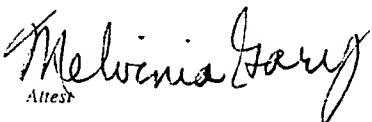
Grants to the person(s) having title to this patent the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the United States of America or importing the invention into the United States of America for the term set forth below, subject to the payment of maintenance fees as provided by law.

If this application was filed prior to June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is the longer of seventeen years from the date of grant of this patent or twenty years from the earliest effective U.S. filing date of the application, subject to any statutory extension.

If this application was filed on or after June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is twenty years from the U.S. filing date, subject to any statutory extension. If the application contains a specific reference to an earlier filed application or applications under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the term of the patent is twenty years from the date on which the earliest application was filed, subject to any statutory extension.



Acting Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks


Attest



US005979350A

United States Patent

[19]

Larson et al.

[11] Patent Number: **5,979,350**[45] Date of Patent: **Nov. 9, 1999**[54] **WATER SPORT TOWING APPARATUS AND METHOD**[75] Inventors: **Borden M. Larson; William N. Snook, both of Orlando, Fla.**[73] Assignee: **Correct Craft, Inc., Orlando, Fla.**[21] Appl. No.: **09/036,826**[22] Filed: **Mar. 9, 1998**[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **B63B 21/04; B63B 1/00; B63H 19/00**[52] U.S. Cl. **114/253; 440/33; 441/68**[58] Field of Search **114/253, 89, 66, 114/65 R, 83, 384, 361, 242, 254; 440/34; 441/68**[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

D. 195,068	4/1963	Griparis
2,821,726	2/1958	Correll
3,034,470	5/1962	Vanderfetz et al.
3,336,894	8/1967	Eisner
3,503,358	3/1970	Moesley
3,724,595	4/1973	Green
3,802,374	4/1974	Brown
3,811,143	5/1974	Page
3,890,918	6/1975	Sell
3,925,836	12/1975	Simmonds
3,949,698	4/1976	Sell
4,163,529	8/1979	Krenzer et al.
4,341,177	7/1982	Miyazaki et al.
4,528,927	7/1985	Iizuka et al.
4,561,375	12/1985	Paxton
4,641,597	2/1987	Paxton
4,694,773	9/1987	Sparkes et al.
4,893,577	1/1990	Jennings

5,018,474	5/1991	Jellen
5,050,517	9/1991	Kobayashi
5,052,326	10/1991	Wiggen et al.
5,105,754	4/1992	Collins
5,215,025	6/1993	Talmor
5,520,133	5/1996	Wiegert
5,520,139	5/1996	King et al.
5,645,003	7/1997	Grinde
5,673,507	10/1997	Stokes, Jr.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Alan Jones, A Star is Born, Boating World, Sep. 1997, pp. 33-34.

Primary Examiner—D. Glenn Dayoan

Assistant Examiner—Patrick Muldoon

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Allen, Dyer, Doppelt, Milbrath & Gilchrist, P.A.

[57] **ABSTRACT**

The aerial performance characteristics of a performer using a water sport implement such as a wakeboard, and being towed by a vessel while maintaining stability of the vessel includes a first relatively rigid vertical support fitted to one side of the, a second relatively rigid vertical support fitted structure to an opposing side, and a horizontal bridging portion extending between upper extremities of the first and second vertically extending supports, at a height substantially above a level of the operator station for the vessel. A tow rope is attached to the horizontally extending bridging portion for towing the performer from the horizontally extending bridging portion while operating the vessel in a body of water. By pivotally attaching the first and second supports to the respective sides of the vessel, they can be rotated downwardly so that the vessel may pass underneath a bridge or into a boat house.

49 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

